

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Power of Presence

Aviano Airmen have a new way to share career milestones with family and friends around the world. The Power of Presence Web site, found at www.usafe.af.mil/pop, displays photos for download of Airmen receiving unit, quarterly and annual awards, promotions, leadership visits and other significant events. For more information, call Senior Airman Sarah Gregory at Ext. 7344.

Juice bar

The Dragon Fitness Center juice bar grand opening is at 12:15 p.m. today. The juice bar will carry items such as snacks, water, smoothies, protein shakes and cappuccinos.

State bonus

Massachusetts veterans and servicemembers may qualify for the "Welcome Home Bonus" for serving since Sept. 11, 2001. The bonus provides \$500 for six months or more regular active service or \$1,000 for active service in Afghanistan or Iraq. For more information and eligibility guidelines, visit www.mass.gov/treasury/veteransbonus/welcomehomebonus.htm

**By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs**

The 14th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force visited Aviano Airmen Monday with U.S. Air Forces in Europe Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman.

During his visit, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray discussed the Air Force's future with Aviano's enlisted at the mass briefing facility.

The main topics of discussion were training, deployments, education and the new uniform.

"We are seeing an increase in joint training with our Airmen because that's how we fight. No one particular service can do everything we need our military to do today," Chief Murray said. "What we can do is develop and prepare our Airmen to be contributors to the joint team through education and experience. Today's Airmen are going to Southwest Asia and other places where they're working in a joint environment and we need to ensure those first-hand expe-



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray talks to Airmen at the Airman Leadership School during his visit to Aviano Monday. Chief Murray held several briefings that discussed the future of the Air Force and he also thanked Airmen for their service.

riences are being shared with their coworkers."

Chief Murray said the Air Force has 15 years of expeditionary combat experience and we need to focus on training to become warriors.

"We deployed our forces to the Middle East back in 1990 when Iraq was attacking Kuwait. We maintained Northern Watch and South-

ern Watch right here from Aviano. Operation Allied Force is still sustaining operations and then take the 9/11 time frame with Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom ... the type of combat experience we have is unbelievable," he said.

Chief Murray said emphasis on being a warrior and combat ready is necessary.

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Cookies: The Aviano Girl Scouts hold their final Girl Scout cookie sale of the year Saturday and Sunday in the base exchange.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1109.5	857
	+157.1	+72

Information current as of Thursday.



Parking

Can't find a parking space in Area One? Although legal parking is available, many people are parking illegally and will be ticketed.

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Cycling

Local cycling group is open to all American and Italian children. The group teaches children fitness and fun.

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Letter to Airmen: AFSO 21

Our role as an Air Force is to provide an array of capabilities for the Combatant Commanders to use as directed by the President. These capabilities include the widest variety of joint operations from combat operations to humanitarian aid. Like any other organization, we must seek to constantly give value to our "customers." It's not only the right thing to do for the American taxpayer, it's the smart thing to do.

In my December "Letter to Airmen," I talked about expanding LEAN concepts beyond just depot operations. That effort has now grown into Air Force Smart Operations 21, a dedicated effort to maximize value and minimize waste in our operations. AFSO 21 is a leadership program for commanders and supervisors at all levels, looking at each process from beginning to end. It doesn't just look at how we can do each task better, but asks the tougher and more important question: Why are we doing it this way? Are each of the tasks relevant, productive, and value added? In other words, is it necessary at all? With AFSO 21, we will march unnecessary work out the door – forever.

AFSO 21 signifies a shift in our thinking. It is centered on processes (groups of tasks) rather than tasks alone, which allows us to gain insights into the value, or lack of value, in each task we perform. For example, why does an EPR take 21 days at some bases to process, and only 8 at another? We must do better across the entire Air Force, and no process is immune from this critical review. AFSO 21 is built on successful principles

from the corporate world, and has already yielded results in the Air Force. AFMC has used the tenets of AFSO 21 to put an extra 100 tankers back on the line each day. AFSO 21 is about working smarter to deliver war-fighting capabilities.

We must continue to meet our world-wide requirements even with the continued pressure on our budget. But AFSO 21 is not about cost cutting; it enables our service to take our warfighters of today and grow them into the most effective and efficient thinkers for 2010 and beyond. The continuous process improvements of AFSO 21 will be the new culture of our Air Force. We will look at innovative ways to use our materiel and personnel more efficiently. For example, we're already planning on using the Guard and Reserve differently under the concept of Total Force Integration, capitalizing on their inherent strengths.

As AFSO 21 training comes to your base, ask yourself, "What have I improved today?" Every idea is worth taking to your supervisor. To learn more about the AFSO 21 program, visit the AFSO 21 Web site at <http://www.afso21.hq.af.mil/>. I have full faith that by implementing AFSO 21 together, we will make our Air Force not only more effective, but will drastically improve our combat capability.


Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Aviano Airmen of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Branton Ray Browning

Unit: 31st Maintenance Squadron

Job: Aerospace ground equipment apprentice

Hometown: Wichita Falls, Texas

Hobbies: Traveling

Why joined: Because of the events of 9/11 and for the travel and education benefits



Name: Senior Airman Diane Smith

Unit: 510th Fighter Squadron

Job: Intelligence analyst

Hometown: Albion, N.Y.

Family: Father, Robert; mother, Christine; two older sisters and one niece

Hobbies: Fitness, baking, sightseeing and simply being outdoors enjoying nature

Why joined: I wanted to do something both challenging and rewarding with my life.



7 Fire safety tips

Aviano dorm residents and families living in built-to-lease housing or economy housing are urged to use good fire prevention measures in the kitchen.

- Never put anything on the stove that you don't want to heat. A stove electric coil can reach a temperature of 800 degrees and gas flames can reach up to 600 degrees. Dish towels and potholders can catch fire at 400 degrees.
- Don't leave pots on the stove or heat cooking oil unattended.
- Clean the exhaust hood, duct and filter over the stove regularly. Most filters are thin mesh and can be changed easily.
- Grease build-up can contribute to the spread of fire. Wipe up spilled grease as soon as the stove surface is cool. The self-help store, located in Bldg. 430 in Area C, has filters for all dorm and BTL residents.
- Watch young children in the kitchen and keep all pot handles pointing to the side. Use back burners whenever possible.
- Never pour water on a grease fire – it scatters the flame. In case of a fire, turn off the stove and cover the pan or close the oven door.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Learning experience

First Lt. Ben Couchman, 555th Fighter Squadron pilot, demonstrates how to play the game of crud to Sergio De Pellegrin, 31st Maintenance Squadron honorary commander, and a number of other Italian nationals before the 31st Fighter Wing Crud Tournament at the La Bella Vista Club March 10.

Toastmasters: Aviano Toastmasters meet at noon Thursday in the 31st Operations Group conference room. Call Ext. 7551 for details.

Business owners must have work permit, visa

Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing Legal Office

Operating a business in Italy, including a home-based business, without proper authority is illegal.

People authorized to live in Italy according to military orders are here for the purpose of supporting the NATO mission. Employment of active duty, dependents and civilians on base by the U.S. government supports the mission and, therefore, those people are working legally in Italy. All other businesses are subject to Italian laws including immigration, taxation and labor laws.

It is important to remember that most American servicemembers are here with only their orders and ID card. There is no visa required for these individuals. Dependents and civilian employees are issued no-fee passports and missione visas, which allow them to obtain a soggiorno per missione. This soggiorno per missione allows our civilians to work for the U.S. government and our dependents to stay in Italy for the duration of the sponsor's tour.

If an individual comes to Italy with the intention of working, they must obtain a different visa (visto di lavoro) and get the appropriate work permit (permesso di lavoro). This must be done while residing stateside, and is obtained from an Italian consulate, much like a missione visa. Although changing your status from missione to lavoro could affect your Status

of Forces Agreement privileges, such as the base exchange, commissary and fuel coupons, it is illegal for anyone to work on the Italian economy without these documents.

If someone is operating their own business, including home-based businesses, or working on the Italian economy – even part-time – without the proper documentation, they are doing so illegally and could be subject to prosecution by the Italian authorities. Additionally, military members could also be subject to administrative or UCMJ action.

A business is defined as selling services or goods. Selling household goods such as used 220v appliances or a car to another servicemember before a PCS is not considered conducting business illegally. While activities such as part-time babysitting are technically considered conducting business, this type of activity is sporadic and most likely will not generate the level of interest or income to warrant involvement by the local authorities.

The legal office isn't aware of any Italian law which criminalizes the purchase of goods from an unlicensed business. However, if you are buying new goods from an illegal business, you are buying goods that have often been imported into Italy illegally, without proper duty or customs clearance.

Aviano members should be advised that the legal office cannot provide legal assistance to personal businesses or to members seeking personal business advice.

Log on with Common Access Card available soon

**By Senior Airman
Sarah Gregory**

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano members can expect to see a change in the way they log onto the network by summertime. Instead of the traditional username and password log on, computer users will soon be required to use something they should already have – their ID card.

“The Air Force has mandated all Department of Defense Common Access Card holders to begin using them to log on [to their computers],” said Master Sgt. Brian McHugh, 31st Communications Squadron deputy section chief for network operations.

To prepare Aviano members for the new requirement, unit client support administrators will install the hardware (the card reader) and the software (Active Card Gold) onto computers.

“The whole process will take maybe 10-15 minutes of downtime,” said Airman 1st Class Vieri Tenuta, 31st Communications Squadron network training instructor. “All unit CSAs have been trained and it’s their responsibility to get the computers ready. If members don’t know who their CSA is, they can call the help desk to find out.”

Once the computer upgrade is com-

Card security

- Commit your PIN to memory. Don’t write it down or keep it in your wallet or under your keyboard.
- If you lose your ID card, go to the MPF immediately. They will be able to revoke the card certificates so someone can’t access your computer and secure Web sites.

plete, users will be able to log on using their ID card and a six- to eight-digit PIN number, which the member creates at the military personnel flight. In order for the card to work with the new system, members need to make sure it has several necessary “certificates” on it.

“The three certificates are pieces of information that verify the user’s identity,” said Airman 1st Class Adriano Costanzo, 31st Communications Squadron configuration management technician. “The first certificate is an electronic signature for digitally signing documents and e-mail and for logging onto the network. The second certificate is for identity purposes and holds demographic information such as blood type, social security number, birthday and age. The third certificate

is an encryption certificate that allows access to secure Web sites and is used for sending encrypted e-mails.”

To help make the CAC process go smoothly, Aviano members should ensure they have all the certificates on their card.

“People should have their CSA check their card for the three certificates and if they don’t have them, the CSA will refer them to the MPF,” said Airman Tenuta. “Most users will have at least one certificate on their cards already. If you have people PSCing in to Aviano, have the MPF check their cards right away.”

Airman Tenuta said the purpose for the change is security. “The card establishes a chain of trust from a user’s computer all the way up to the DoD.”

In addition to making the network log-on process more secure, the new Common Access Card requirement is designed to simplify secure site access.

“Aside from getting on to their computer, people will be able to use their Common Access Cards to log onto AFPC, Assignment Management System, the Air Force Portal and MyPay,” said Airman Costanzo. “The CAC gets you into all the secure sites you used to have to use a password for, but now you can log in just using a PIN.”

TRICARE: People with TRICARE questions or concerns may call Aviano’s TRICARE Medical Service coordinators at Ext. 5133.

CMSAF, from page 1

“We highlighted basic training to provide more realistic training and to capture what we’ve been doing in our force for 15 years. Our plan now is to increase that training by two weeks,” he said. “We will continue to focus our efforts throughout our force on combat preparation for a joint environment.”

Chief Murray also said the educational and training level of the enlisted force impressed him.

“As busy as we are and have been, the educational level continues to rise at a phenomenal rate,” he said. “Through education, training and experience, we will continue to develop our Airmen and focus on Professional Military Education.”

Despite how busy our Air Force is, Chief Murray said Airmen are well-rounded and the Air Expeditionary Force system contributes to that.

“Our AEF system gives us predictability when we deploy. I think through the AEF and knowing when you are going to deploy can help balance opportunities,” he said. “It gives Airmen the ability to be involved in the community, balance their time with their families and better themselves. While our primary focus has to be the mission and supporting the Global War on Terror, we must continue to work to achieve a good balance in our lives.”

During the enlisted call, Chief Coleman modeled the new Air Force uniform while Chief Murray explained its features. Chief Murray said the new uniform should be available next year.

“We finalized the uniform and should see manufacturing begin by the end of 2006. Hopefully we will be able to issue the

“ **The Air Force isn’t a job or an occupation – it’s about serving an institution that has values and is larger than you. It’s about serving your nation ...** ”

*-Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
Gerald Murray*

uniforms in early 2007,” he said. “History has shown us that it typically takes about three years to phase in a new uniform from the time we start manufacturing to the time that everyone has them. I think the first Airmen to receive the uniform will be those who are deployed in the combat theater.”

After 29 years of service to the nation and the Air Force, Chief Murray will retire this fall. He said the future of the Air Force is bright. His recommendation to new Airmen is to realize what a great opportunity it is to serve. “It comes with sacrifice. The Air Force isn’t a job or an occupation – it’s about serving an institution that has values and is larger than you. It’s about serving your nation and wearing the uniform,” he said. “You won’t get rich monetarily in the military, but you do get rich by the people you serve with. Each and every one of you is making a difference. It’s a pleasure to come over and say thank you for your service and what you do each and every day. Being an Airman is a great way of life.”

Breaking the silence

Survivor support group helps abuse victims

By Master Sgt. Carole Steele
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

One out of every four women experience the devastation of a sexual assault in their lifetime. Not nearly that many report it or seek help.

Having long been called the "silent" crime, a variety of statistical studies show that anywhere from 60 to 90 percent of sexual assaults are never reported.

The silence, however, doesn't help the healing according to many who suffered for months or years before finally seeking help from other survivors.

To help break the silence and connect survivors in the Aviano area, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator office, known as SARC, is helping launch a new support program next week. The Survivor Support Group will be a way for survivors of sexual assault, domestic abuse, and criminal violence to help each other.

The group is open to military members, civilians and dependents over the age of 18. Men, who account for 10 percent of reported attacks, are always welcome.

"There's a lot to be said for survivors

helping survivors," said Capt. Karin De Angelis, Aviano's SARC coordinator. "These are groups where people can share coping mechanisms, compassionate support, and reduce the sense of isolation."

In an area where anonymity is of great concern to many potential participants, Aviano survivors will finally have a resource they can turn to that is private and confidential.

"When the SARC office stood up, we realized that one of the gaps that the [overseas] community had was a support group option," said Captain De Angelis. "If you're in the states, you have the option of going to a [civilian] crisis center down the street and retain some anonymity."

Likewise, those who attend the Aviano Survivor Support Group will remain anonymous and military members may attend in civilian clothes.

In fact, the main objective of the SARC office is to connect the group members and then let them run the support group outside of official channels.

"We are initiating it by providing the location, publicity and refreshments, but after the initial meeting, the par-

ticipants will take control of the group," said Captain De Angelis. "We're not going to control what they talk about or the way the meetings are conducted. Additionally, nothing is ever documented and there will be no recording of the meetings."

The first meeting will be Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 220 in Area Two. The group will meet behind closed doors in a private area on the second floor that has a kitchen and bathroom. After survivors take sole control of the group, they are welcome to continue using this area or they may move the meeting to a location of their choice.

"The whole way we've set it up is to be comfortable and private," said Captain De Angelis.

Those are things that may seem elusive to many victims who are suffering in silence. Now they will have a confidential resource to help them navigate the road to recovery with the help of others who have been there.

For more information about this and other sexual assault programs at Aviano, call the SARC office at 632-SARC (7272).

Cancelled trip: The fishing trip scheduled for Sunday has been cancelled. For more information, call outdoor recreation at Ext. 8265.

724th AMS wins Air Force level safety award

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 724th Air Mobility Squadron recently won the Air Force Chief of Safety Outstanding Achievement Award for Ground Safety Category V.

"Our military and civilians all worked together as a team to win this award. Everyone in the squadron was actively involved with safety," said Lee Salvetti, 724th AMS chief of resources and safety.

Squadron members reached several safety milestones in 2005. They took first place in the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety challenge from their parent unit at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; they on- and off-loaded 31,340 passengers and 3,113 cargo tons without a single reportable mishap; and they directed daily safety briefings in the squadron's sections to ensure everyone was always aware of required personal protective equipment and vehicle safety requirements. These briefings resulted in zero mishaps.

The squadron safety unit also created a fire extinguisher tracking program, which was approved and lauded by the base fire department. The program consists of detailed maps with location numbers and an updatable spreadsheet.

"I've been in a lot of facilities where extinguishers haven't been inspected for a few months, or where the six-year maintenance check was due," said Staff Sgt. Derek Lambert, 724th AMS passenger service supervisor. "When I started in safety, I

caught problems with 10 extinguishers, but having this database helps ensure that all squadron extinguishers are operable."

The safety of air passengers arriving at Aviano was another main concern for the squadron's safety personnel. They mandated posting guards to guarantee safe passage from the aircraft to the terminal, and sought a long term-parking lot to ensure passengers have a safe storage area for their autos and valuables.

"The most enjoyable milestone was when we all came together for Safety Day 2005," Sergeant Lambert said. "Many members of the squadron gave a quick safety briefing on a topic of their choice. Many were entertaining, all were educational, and some covered topics you don't usually hear about. It was a great day and we all had a lot of fun."

Sergeant Lambert worked in safety from July 2004 to November 2005. During that time, he designed the squadron's safety intranet Web site, making it easy for members to get regulations, check the status of spot inspection write-ups and view safety-related video clips. "I reconstructed our safety program and tried to make it fun," he said. "Wing safety provided a lot of support and we worked together well."

Staff Sgt. Melinda Cena, 724th AMS safety and resources NCOIC, said she was extremely proud of the squadron as a whole.

"I think being safe day-to-day was a great milestone for us," she said. "If we had been off our game even one day, our chance of winning would have been slim."



Photos By Steve Galloway

Only park in designated parking spots. Designated parking spots are painted with white lines. Those who park in undesignated parking spots will be ticketed.



Park in designated parking lots. Area One and Two has several lots to choose from, including the gravel lot behind the shoppette.

Aviano parking

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 31st Security Forces Squadron is stepping up its enforcement of base parking rules.

Aviano drivers must ensure they park in properly designated spaces and use the "disco orario," or time wheel, when parking in spaces with a time limit, such as the lot in front of the shoppette in Area One.

These and other parking concerns were recently addressed by the chairperson for the Traffic Safety Coordination Group, Lt. Col. Suzanne Kumashiro, 31st Mission Support Group deputy commander.

"Although the base has grown, parking hasn't," she said. "We are members of the World's Finest Wing and we are all customers of various Aviano Air Base agencies; therefore, when parking at your primary work center, save the 'convenient slots' for customers. If everyone follows this courteous approach, we will have plenty of available parking slots for customers and patients."

People who work in Area One are encouraged to use the overflow gravel parking lot behind the shoppette or park in Area Two and use the underground tunnel to get to Area One, Colonel Kumashiro said. "From either of these two parking lots and at a normal walking pace, a person can walk to any facility in Area One or Two in less than seven minutes."

The two access points to the tunnel are to the right of the gate upon entering Area One, and on

the north side of Bldg. 258 in Area One.

When drivers do park on base, they must ensure it is in a designated spot marked with white lines.

Some illegal parking areas exist, including parking along a painted yellow line, parking in a reserved slot when not authorized, parking in an authorized parking slot, doubling up in or along fire lanes, blocking fire lanes, parking on the shoulder of a road, parking in an emergency, impeding the flow of traffic for the loading or unloading of cargo, parking more than a foot from a building, parking in any area not designated for parking, parking within 26 feet of intersections, and parking near fire hydrants.

"Many areas where people park are prohibited because of fire, safety, and force protection policies," said Lt. Col. Kumashiro. "In any case, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron is the planner. 'When a driver blocks a fire lane, prohibiting not only other cars getting through, but also emergency vehicles.'"

He is also concerned with people parking near fuel tanks. "One could assume it is sense not to park near a fuel tank," said Lt. Col. Kumashiro. "A vehicle's ignition could cause a faulty fuel tank to explode, which may cause a faulty fuel tank to explode."

When it comes to parking in designated spots with a specific time limit, people must use the disco orario in their windshield and so



Although the red sign on the fuel tank says no smoking within 50 feet, it also includes no parking within 50 feet. The vehicle is an ignition source when started and could cause the tank to ignite. Additionally, the vehicle blocks access to the fuel tank.

rules enforced

Area Two. In these areas, they must always be defined by painted lines. Base rules include: parking on the curb; parking in a reserved spot, blocking a reserved parking space, parking in a driveway or walkway of the road unless it's clear of traffic except for passengers or cargo, on the curb, parking in a reserved parking space, and parking within 15 feet of a building.

are parking on base. For safety, antiterrorism reasons, said Stephen Galloway, base community manager, they are prohibiting parking through, but

people who park next to a tank, yet people do," can produce a spark and explode." In slots designated for tanks, people must use a disco orario to the time they

parked there. Newcomers who haven't had time to acquire a disco orario must write the time on a piece of paper and display it on the front dash where it is visible through the windshield.

Currently, all of Aviano's timed parking areas, as well as the reserved spots, are being reviewed. Timed parking spaces will be revalidated and adjusted for the appropriate times for the size and customers of each facility.

Facility managers are conducting the review of reserved spaces in all base areas. Review of Areas One and Two will be completed March 31, Areas C and E will be completed April 14, and Area F will be completed April 28.

After all the reviews, the Traffic Safety Coordination Group will study the findings to ensure compliance with Aviano Operating Instruction 31-204. "We will revalidate all the reserved parking spaces and ensure they are limited to those who are authorized to have them," said Mr. Galloway.

He added that facility managers who need to order reserve parking signs must submit an AF Form 332, Base Civil Engineer Work Request, to civil engineer customer service.

With possible upcoming changes and tighter enforcement of base parking rules, drivers should ensure they know and comply with all parking policies or they could find themselves no longer in need of a parking slot on base. Those who receive three parking tickets or non-moving violations within a 30-day period lose their driving privileges for 30 days.

Parking rules

- * Handicapped Parking is only available to people with authorized permits and those transporting the handicapped. Handicapped parking permits are issued through the 31st Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration office per recommendation of medical group personnel.

- * Reserved parking is only during normal facility duty hours with the exception of general officers, colonel, commanders (CC/CD), handicapped, first sergeants and government vehicle parking areas.

- * Areas marked with the European timed parking symbol will require the use of a disco orario showing the time the vehicle arrived at the parking lot. Alternatively, a piece of paper with the date and time of arrival can be placed in the windshield. Timed parking will be enforced from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the exception of facilities which are manned 24 hours a day, where enforcement will be 24 hours a day. Disco orarios can be purchased at the base exchange.

- * Parking is authorized only on paved surfaces that are marked by two white painted lines with the exception of motorcycles and bicycles which may park in the yellow striped areas of parking lots. Established gravel parking lots or parking areas established during special events are considered authorized parking areas.

Registration

Registration for University of Maryland University College Europe Term Four is Monday through March 24. Term Four on-site classes are from March 27 through May 20 and online distance education courses are from April 3 to July 7. For more information, visit the education center.

AFSA

The next Air Force Sergeants Association meeting is at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Aviano Professional Development Center, Area Two Bldg. 220. Active duty, as well as retirees, are welcome to attend.

School registration

School registration for all returning students in grades one through 12 is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 28-29 in the Aviano Elementary School gym. Parents must sign up for school transportation with the school bus office and must reapply for free and reduced lunches with the school's officer.

For more information, call

the following offices: Aviano Elementary School at Ext. 5616; Aviano Middle School at Ext. 5777; Aviano High School at Ext. 5877; School Bus Office at Ext. 5152; and School Officer at Ext. 5261.

Heritage month

The Asian Pacific Heritage Month project coordinators are looking for volunteers. The next meetings are at 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the La Bella Vista Club enlisted lounge. For more information, call Ext. 2342 or 7635.

Marital class

A two-part marital enrichment class that teaches why opposites usually attract and how to understand personality types is from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and March 29 in Area One, Bldg. 108. Onsite childcare is available and singles are also welcome. For more information, call Ext. 5667.

La Leche League

The La Leche League meets at 6 p.m. Thursday in the chapel education center, Area One, Bldg. 168. The

group welcomes all breast feeding and pregnant women. Babies and children are welcome at the meetings and snacks are provided. For more information call 0434-755-606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Into the Woods

The Aviano Community Theater presents Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" at 7 p.m. March 24-25, 2 p.m. March 26 and April 2 and 5 p.m. March 31 and April 1 in the Aviano High School multipurpose room. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. All proceeds go to show production. For more information, call Ext. 5076.

Tuition Assistance

Online tuition assistance is mandatory for all active duty personnel. Airmen requesting tuition assistance must have a degree plan on file with the education center. Tuition assistance may only be used for courses that fit in the degree program. To apply for TA, visit the Air Force Portal at www.my.af.mil and click on Air Force Virtual Education Center. For more information or for instructions on how to apply, call the education center at Ext. 5330.

Nutrition

March is National Nutrition Month and Aviano's Health and Wellness Center is holding a healthy cooking class from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday and March 28. To sign up or for more information, call Ext. 4573.

Girl Scouts

The Aviano Girl Scouts are taking applications for the position of Overseas Committee Chair until April 1. Recruitment has also begun for next year's committee positions. People interested in being a leader, treasurer, secretary, public relations resale or other volunteer opportunities can call, 0434-76-8521 or e-mail avianogs@yahoo.com.

Resume writing

The family support center is hosting a resume writing class from 10 a.m. to noon March 24. The class teaches various resume formats, key words and the importance of a cover letter. To sign up, or for more information, call Ext. 5407 or e-mail sylvia.flores@aviano.af.mil.

Womens History

A Women's History Month seminar is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Community Center. The seminar is open to anyone interested in learning from successful women. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Rob Faith at Ext. 7203.

The Women's History Month luncheon is at 11 a.m. March 29 at the La Bella Vista club. To purchase tickets, call Tech. Sgt. Georgina Francis at Ext. 5688.

Seminar

A free one-hour seminar on identifying overseas civilian job opportunities in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance is at 1 p.m. March 30 at the family support center. To sign up, call Ext. 5768 or 5656.

Entertainers

The Aviano Community Theater, Aviano Community Center and the Aviano Community Music Club is looking for writers, actors, singers, rappers, dancers, comedians, composers, musicians and entertainers for a joint database. The database will help promote the talents of the local community at events such as Aviano Idol, Apollo Night, the Family/Teen Talent Night, play performances, dinner theater, etc. Additionally, they are looking for people interested in writing, producing and composing an original play/musical. For more information e-mail, Frank Lewendowski at frank.lewendowski@eu.dodea.edu, Jeffrey Davis at jeffrey.davis@aviano.af.mil, or Master Sgt. Luis Adams at luis.adams@aviano.af.mil.

Reel Times

Today, 6 p.m. - "Hoodwinked" Rated PG - Animal cops investigate a domestic disturbance at Granny's cottage involving a girl, a wolf and an axe. Animated.

Today, 8:30 p.m. - "Annapolis" Rated PG-13 - A young man's dream comes true when he is accepted to the Naval Academy. Once he's there, he's not sure he measures up against the best and the brightest. Starring: James Franco, Jordana Brewster

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Hoodwinked" Rated PG

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Casanova" Rated R - When Giacomo Casanova met Francesca Bruni, he met his romantic match. She is the only woman ever to refuse his charms and he has to prove he is the one man worthy of her romantic ideals. Starring: Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Big Momma's House 2" Rated PG-13 - An FBI special agent must go undercover as Big Momma to nail his ex-partner's murderer. Starring: Martin Lawrence, Nia Long

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Annapolis" Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Big Momma's House 2" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Food and Folklore

A food and folklore festival in Friuli Venezia Giulia is March 24-25 in Palmanova and Trieste. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Nautical show

A nautical show runs through Sunday in Venice. For more information, visit www.salonenaudicodivenezia.com.

Art exhibit

A Gauguin/Van Gogh exhibit is in Brescia until March 28. Tickets should be purchased in advance. For ticket information, call 0438-21-306. For more information, visit www.lineadombra.it.

Butterflies

A butterfly exhibit near Tolmezzo opens Saturday. Tolmezzo is on the way to Tarvisio. For more information, visit www.casaperlefarfalle.it.

Antique markets

Several local towns will hold antique markets Sunday. Towns include: Udine near the mall in Martignacco, Godega S. Urbano and Padova. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Renaissance art

Marco Palmezzano Renaissance art is displayed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays through April 30 at the Musei in San Domenico in Forlì. For more information, visit www.marcopalmezzano.it.

Travel the exotic land of Morocco

Story and photo by Liz Berdugo
U.S. Air Forces in Europe

So you've moved to Europe and gotten the travel bug. You've gone to Slovenia, Austria, maybe even Paris. It's time for something a little farther, perhaps Morocco. Seems a bit more foreign than Europe, but that's what makes it so interesting.

From Italy there are several ways to get to Morocco. The easiest is to fly from Venice to Rabat, the country's capital.

Once you arrive in Morocco, getting around is easy. Train travel is reliable and affordable. Some cities to visit include Rabat, Marrakech and Fes.

Rabat's souq, or market, offers cultural foods, carpets, drums, leather goods and handmade ceramics produced in the country. The souq opens out to the walled city of the Kasbah des Oudaias. From the Kasbah you can see Rabat's landmark, the Tour Hassan. The Tour is a huge minaret, or tower, for calling prayers and was intended to be the highest in the Muslim world but was never finished. Next to the Tour is the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, a tomb for the father and grandfather of Morocco's current king.

After visiting Rabat's sites, travelers should visit the gem in the center of Morocco – Marrakech, which is known for its exotic market. Shoppers will want to head directly to the Djemaa el Fna main square, where 'street performer' is a proper job title. During the day, tourists can sip fresh orange juice, listen to Arabic rock music, get a temporary henna tattoo and see snake charmers. In the evening, the square comes alive with storytellers, belly dancers, acrobats and fire breathers.

For a more cultural or religious feel, travelers can visit Fes. Old Fes, known as Fes el-Bali, is one of the largest fortified medieval cities in the world. The souq is a labyrinth of shops divided by craft; one area stamping brass plates, another sewing shoes and a third tanning and dyeing leather in out-



A doorway in a Madresa, or religious school. Among other things, the country of Morocco has intricate architecture, fine carpets, cultural foods and handmade ceramics.

door earthen pits. In addition to the maze of craft shops are the sights of Kairaouine Mosque and University, one of the oldest in the world, and Madersa Bou Inania, a 12th century school with excellent Moroccan architecture.

Before leaving the country, travelers should enjoy an authentic Moroccan meal which in the main cities is often coupled with traditional music or belly dancing. The meals involve at least four courses.

After a long day of sight-seeing and bargaining for goods, travelers can relax in the steaming hot waters of the hammam, or spa. Hammams are offered at the high-end hotels in a western-style setting. Services include massages with candles or incense. For the real thing, find a public hammam. Travelers will need a towel, shower shoes and toiletries and may be offered henna for their hair and skin, clay called ghassoul to wash with, or a massage scrub. Skip the henna unless you want a new hair color!

Although different from Europe, Morocco offers a variety of many exotic delights that travelers can enjoy.

Tourism: For Italy tourist information, including travel tips, events and activities, visit <http://www.italiantourism.com>.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Gregory

The Hohensalzburg Fortress overlooks the town of **Salzburg**, Austria. Salzburg is the birthplace of Mozart.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday – Guided Milan and Medieval Bergamo
- Saturday – Castles in Bavaria
- March 25 – Guided San Marino
- March 25 – Guided Salzburg and Sound of Music tour
- April 1 – Guided Lugano, Switzerland

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives

and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

Local biking club offers fun, fitness

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In sleek matching yellow and blue shorts, the bikers line up for the race. Adrenaline pumping, the racers lean over the handlebars, muscles tense, waiting for the sound of the whistle. They're lean, mean biking machines, and they're only 7 years old.

The racers are part of the Fontanafredda bicycling group, open to Italian and American students ages 7-18, and just one of the many biking groups in the local area.

During the winter, the group meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the gym in Vigonovo and 3 p.m. Saturdays for outdoor work. In April, the group stops the indoor gym work and works strictly outdoors.

"Right now, the group is more like a training camp," said Bryant Nicodemus, whose 7-year-old triplets are in the racing group. "During the winter they do the gym work to stay cardiovascularly fit. Outdoor work consists of riding through obstacle courses, which helps the younger students get used to riding a racing bike, gain coordination skills and adjust to the fear of racing."

Although the group is led by Italian coaches, it is open to anyone who loves the sport of biking.

"The only membership requirement is that children need to know how to ride a two-wheel bike," said Coach Marco Pivetta. "Once they have the basic riding skills down, we teach them how to ride a racing bike, which is different than a regular street bike."

Members must also be under the age of 19 because that is the age when bikers get into semi-professional competition levels.

The cost to participate in the group is €135 per year and includes everything the biker needs. The annual fee pays for the bike, helmet and summer and winter gear.

According to Coach Enrico Zanatta, there are many benefits, both physical and psychological.

"Biking helps with physical growth by keeping [youth] fit and active," he said. "The children also learn teamwork and dedication. The rules and discipline involved with competitive racing helps them develop into mature adults."

Besides the physical fitness benefits children get from bicycling, the group offers Americans a glimpse into Italian culture.

"Biking to Italians is like football or baseball to Americans," said Pivetta. "Besides soccer, it's the principal sport in Italy. The larger towns like Treviso have even more biking clubs."

Coach Zanatta added that the group gives Americans the opportunity to understand the Italian language better through exposure and the children grow up learning Italian culture.



Courtesy photo

Fontanafredda cycling group member Ryan Clancy rides through an obstacle course designed to teach the students how to ride a racing bike and increase their coordination.

Being a part of a local athletic organization not only benefits the participants but their parents as well.

"It has been a great experience, not just for my son, but for the whole family," said Steven Clancy. "We get to see the sport through the eyes [of the Italians,] and they have accepted us into their lives. We also get to travel to a lot of small towns we normally wouldn't get to see, so we are learning more and more about the area."

Despite all the perks the group provides, some people might still be hesitant to join because of the communication problems that can arise from not speaking Italian. To those people, Clancy offers a bit of advice.

"Don't be intimidated by the language and cultural barriers. There are kids on the team that don't speak any Italian," he said. "Embrace the culture. It's a great sport to be involved with."

Perhaps the group rewards could be summed up best by 7-year-old Ryan Clancy, who just wants to be able to ride 74 mph like the older students.

"We get to ride bikes really fast and it's a good place to make friends," he said.

For more information on the Fontanafredda bicycling group, call Renza Nicodemus at 347-481-9770 or 0434-99-768. She speaks Italian and English fluently and can help translate if necessary.

Fly Bys

Volleyball games

A Project Cheer 3-on-3 volleyball tournament is at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call Senior Airman Tim Williams at Ext. 7459.

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8 a.m. Sunday. The group leaves the Bar Municipio in Roveredo and heads to Campeis di Pinzano Tagliamento. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Grifoni football

Aviano Grifoni is looking for football players. No experience is necessary. The team practices at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 1 p.m. Saturdays in Area D. For more information, e-mail avianogrifoni@yahoo.com.

Bowling hours

The bowling center will be closed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday due to a scheduled power outage.

Soccer tournament

The Italian air force command section is organizing a soccer tournament this spring. They would like to form teams of five or seven players composed of U.S. and local nationals to play on the weekends. To sign up, call Italian air force Master Sgt. Gaitano Piccerro at Ext. 7038.

On the dance floor

Kick up your heels with dance lessons from the community center in Area One. Lessons are taught in salsa, merengue, Latin, Caribbean, country, swing and ballroom dancing. The cost is \$20 per person for a two-hour group lesson or \$40 for a one-hour private lesson. Call Ext. 5479 for available dates and times, or to sign up.

A tale of two sponsors

By Col. Scott Zobrist

31st Operations Group commander

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. It was the time of proactive, caring sponsorship. It was the time of lazy, minimum-requirement sponsorship. This is the story of two sponsors and how their different approaches to sponsorship meant the difference between a good and a not-so-good assignment at Aviano.

Senior Airman Snuffy volunteered to be a sponsor because he wanted to a bullet for his next Enlisted Performance Report. He attended the required sponsor training and was assigned an inbound new guy. Airman Snuffy tried to contact his new guy the week prior to arrival, but he never got a response to his e-mail. He did manage to track down his new guy at the passenger terminal, took him to billeting and drove him to the first day of Right Start. After that, Airman Snuffy never checked on him again. Thinking back to his own PCS, Airman Snuffy remembered his sponsor never even contacted him at all, so he thought he was doing a pretty good job in comparison. Unfortunately, the guy Airman Snuffy sponsored was left to fend for himself and got off on the wrong foot here. In the end, it influenced his entire assignment in a negative way.

Senior Airman Bagadonuts was a very different story. He had a great sponsor when he PCSed, so he volunteered to be a sponsor. As soon as Airman Bagadonuts and his wife found out the name of their inbounds, they contacted them via e-mail and got a phone number. Using his phone card, Airman Bagadonuts called to tell his new guy all about Aviano housing, schools, cars and driving, pets, what to bring to Italy, what not to bring, fun stuff to do, etc. Mrs. Bagadonuts then got on the phone with Mrs. New Guy and answered all kinds of questions about Aviano.

Moving is stressful for families, and sometimes the thing PCSing families want most is informa-

tion from someone currently here. Over the next few months, Airman Bagadonuts and his wife stayed in contact with their inbounds via phone and e-mail. They scouted out a couple of potential rental houses and used cars, got reservations in TLF, got the keys to the TLF room on the day of arrival and even stocked the fridge with snacks and soft drinks. You get the picture – Airman Bagadonuts and his wife wanted to treat the new family like royalty so their first experience here would be positive, and it affected the new family's attitudes about Aviano from day one.

Being a sponsor is not just sending someone a sponsor package and picking them up at the airport. It's going above and beyond to take care of someone the way you would like to be taken care of when you arrive at a new base. There isn't enough room here to list all the good ideas out there about sponsoring, but here are a few sponsor rules of thumb: personal contact is key – e-mail or call early and often; don't ask what they need – figure it out and do it before they ask. People often hesitate to ask for help, and sometimes in Italy, they don't even know what they need. Think back to when you PCSed – what did your sponsor not do that you wish they had? Do those things for the person you sponsor and remember, the little things do matter. When my family got to Aviano, my wife opened the fridge in TLF and there was the thing she desired above all others ... a can of Diet Mountain Dew. All the troubles of several days of traveling melted away with the first swig. Seriously, the fact that our sponsors took care of all the little things, like my wife's favorite drink, really made our arrival special.

Being a good sponsor like Airman Bagadonuts and his wife will positively influence Aviano's new Airmen. Just as importantly, it will set the example for when the new Airmen become sponsors themselves, and the Aviano welcome will keep getting better and better. Thanks for taking the time and effort to be great sponsors.

Recognizing The World's Finest

• Congratulations to **Lt. Col. Dawn Dallanegra**, 31st Operations Support Squadron, on her USAFE Outstanding Individual Mobilization Augmentee of the Year award.

• Congratulations to **Capt. John Vargas**, 555th Fighter Squadron, on his 2006 Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship award.

• Congratulations to **Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith**, former 31st Mission Support Group superintendent, on his retirement after 30 years of superior wingmanship, dedication and professional service.

• Congratulations to **Senior Master Sgt. Eddie Webb**, 31st Medical Operations Squadron, on his selection as Senior NCO Academy distinguished graduate.

• "I'd like to say thank you to the **Airman Leadership School instructors** for creating a professional atmosphere during my ALS education. Thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout class 06-C. You all are professional Air Force instructors. Also, thank you to Charlie Flight Chief Mentor, **Chief Master Sgt. Dean Yoder**, 31st Communications Squadron, for your professional mentorship as our flight mentor." – *Staff Sgt. Alma Dozier, 31st Services Squadron*

• "I would like to say thank you to **Capt. Nicole Ivy** and **Airman 1st Class Perry Northcutt**, both with the 31st Medical Operations Squadron, for their professional and wonderful care in the labor and delivery ward at the Sacile Hospital. When we arrived at the clinic at 2:45 a.m. Dec. 10, I was fully dilated and we couldn't wait for the doctor to deliver our beautiful daughter who arrived a quick 27 minutes later. Captain Ivy and Airman Northcutt were exceptional and we couldn't have asked for anyone better." – *Master Sgt. Mary Lewis, 31st Mission Support Squadron*



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.